to members of scheduled castes, who apply for it, in areas where they are subjected to harassment, booth capture and molestation of women etc. so as to protect themselves from the attacks of powerful sections; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Adequate provisions exist in the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962 for obtaining licences for fire arms for various purposes including self protection. Provisions of the said Act and Rules are uniformly applicable to all throughout the country and licences are granted by the concerned licensing authorities on the basis of genuine and proven need.

Current affairs programmes to private producers

3267. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether current affairs programmes are still being given to private producers to produce; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) if so, (i) what is the official policy on selection and approval of current affairs programmes by private producers specifically, what are the criteria for approval and rejection (ii) whether there is any provision for recording reasons for rejection of proposals for such programmes; if not, the reasons therefor; if so, state these provisions; what has been the record of their implementation (iii) whether there is any procedure for appeal against a decision to reject particular proposals; if not, the reasons therefor; if so, what are these procedures; (iv) whether there is any set of criteria to check the arbitrary approval or rejection of such programmes; if not the reasons therefor; if so, what are the details thereof and (v) in what manner Government ensure that patently political or personal motives do not enter such decisions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Doordarshan continues to assign production of programmes on current affairs to cutside Producers as and when considered necessary.

(b) Such factors as topicality of the subject, treatment/approach proposed to be given, experience of the technical crew and the time schedule for production of the programmes are taken into account in the matter of acceptance or rejection of such proposals. It is not always possible to give the precise reasons on the basis of which a particular proposal has been rejected because an overall view is required to be taken based on totality of circumstances. These proposals are examined at different levels and finally by a duly constituted Committee and this multi-level decision making process ensures that decisions taken are not arbitrary in nature. However, the Producer is free to request for a review and his request is considered on merits.

Official Policy of Censorship

3268. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the official policy on censorship to Current Affairs Programmes;

(b) whether there are any objective guidelines for what may or may not be permitted on Doordarshan; if so, what are the details thereof; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any records are kept of the censored portions of programmes, if not, the reasons therefor if so, is there any system of review to determine whether these decisions were justified or arbitrary;

(d) whether any written reasons are given to private producers for the changes/cuts demanded in current affairs programmes produced by them; if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any prescribed procedure for review of the cuts/changes that are made in programmes; if not, how are officials rendered accountable for their decisions; if so, what are the these procedures; and

(f) whether there is any procedore for appeal against the arbitrary decisions of the officials on alterations and cuts to current affairs programmes by private producers; if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (f) There is no censorship of Current Affairs Programmes produced by outside producers for Doordarshan. If the programme, however, demands some modifications to ensure that its basic objectives is met with necessary changes are suggested to the producer orally and sometime in writing and these are carried out by mutual consultations. The producer is, however, free to present his point of view with regard to suggestions made and the same are considered on merit.

कश्मीर आतंकवादियों के साथ ईरान के संबंधों पर सी आई ए की रिपोर्ट

3269. कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 1 अगस्त, 1990 के नागपूर से प्रकाशित होने वाले दैनिक "लोकमत" में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर आकृष्ट कराया गया है जिसमें अमरीकी सीनेटर मि० अलान क्रास्टन को उद्धृत करते हुए यह कहा गया है कि पाकिस्तान में कार्यरत सी०आई०ए० सूत्रों के अनुसार कश्मीरी आतंकवादियों के ईरान के साथ संबंध हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) स्थिति से निपटने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय से राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरि किशोर सिंह) : (क) से (ग) सरकार ने इस आशय की खबरें देखी हैं। तथापि, सरकार को यह जानकारी नहीं है कि सीनेटर ने यह वक्तव्य किस आधार पर दिया है ?

मध्य प्रदेश में सड़कों के निर्माण के लिए वित्तीय स्वीकृति

3270. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या **जल-भूतल परिवहन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत सरकार को मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से 1984 और 1985 के वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश के बिलासपुर जिले की तीन सड़कों (लम्बाई 250 कि० मी०, 15.00 करोड़ रुपए, तथा शहडोल जिले में एक दूसरी सड़क (लम्बाई 51.0 कि०मी० लागत 1.30 करोड़ रुपए) का निर्माण करने की वित्तीय अनुमति देने का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है ;

(ख) क्या इन सड़कों के निर्माण के लिए वित्तीय स्वीकृति दे दी गई थी; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो अपेक्षित स्वीकृति कब तक प्रदान कर दी जायेगी ?

जल-भूल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री के पी० उन्नीकृष्णन) : (क) से (ग) सूचना